**STEPS TO RESOLVING AN ETHICAL DILEMMA.**

How do you decide what to do if you are presented with an ethical dilemma?

**1. WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?**

• List the full range of alternative courses of action available to you.

**2. CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES**

Think carefully about the range of positive and negative consequences associated with each of the different paths of action before you.

• Who/what will be helped by what you do?

• Who/what will be hurt?

• What kinds of benefits and harms are involved and what are their relative values? Some things (e.g. healthy bodies and beaches) are more valuable than others (e.g. new cars). Some harms (e.g. a violation of trust) are more significant than others (e.g. lying in a public meeting to protect a seal colony).

• What are the short-term and long-term implications?

Now, on the basis of your answers to these questions, which of your options produces the best combination of benefits-maximisation and harm-minimisation?

**3. ANALYSE THE ACTIONS**

You now have to consider each of your options from a completely different perspective. Disregard the consequences, concentrating instead on the actions and looking for that option which seems problematic. How do the options measure up against moral principles like honesty, fairness, equality, and recognition of social and environmental vulnerability? In the case you are considering, is there a way to see one principle as more important than the others?

**4 MAKE YOUR DECISION AND ACT WITH COMMITMENT**

Now, bring together both parts of your analysis and make your informed, decision. Act on your decision and assume responsibility for it. Be prepared to justify your choice of action. No one else is responsible for this action but you.

**5. EVALUATE THE SYSTEM**

Think about the circumstances which led to the dilemma with the intention of identifying and removing the conditions that allowed it to arise.